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Biographical Notice of JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D. BY THE EDITOR.

WITH A PORTRAIT.

Dr. Joseph Leidy was born in the City of Philadelphia, Sep. 9, 1823. His father, Philip Leidy, was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and his mother Catharine, whose maiden name was Mellick, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. On both sides, the family is of German extraction; the great grand-parents, for the most part, having come from the valley of the Rhine.

When 18 months old, his mother died, but his father having married a cousin of the former, of the same family, a few years after, the loss was unfelt in the impartial kindness of a new mother.

He received a common school education; and from early life evincing a talent for drawing, his father proposed he should adopt the profession of an artist. At sixteen he left school, but feeling himself imperfectly educated, he again applied to his studies in the intervals of other employment.

From an early period he was fond of collecting and examining objects in Natural History; and having commenced the study of Botany, for six years in succession, during the summer, he made long pedestrian tours for the purpose of collecting plants. In one of these trips, accompanied by Mr. Richard H. Kern, an artist, and since a distinguished aid in explorations and surveys of the West, under the U. S. Government, he walked up the course of the Hudson river to Lake George, thence to Lake Champlain, and then through the states of Vermont and New Hampshire, over the Green and White Mountains, to Fryburg and Portland in Maine.

At seventeen, having expressed a desire to study the anatomy of animals, at the suggestion of his mother and with the consent of his father, he concluded to adopt the profession of medicine. Previously to this, he had purposed being an apothecary, having become familiar with drugs from

spending much leisure time in a wholesale drug establishment, in the neighborhood of his residence.

In the autumn of 1840, he entered as a medical student with Dr. James McClintock, who was then a successful private teacher of Anatomy. The first year he devoted entirely to the study of practical Anatomy. The spring of 1842, Dr. McClintock having left Philadelphia, to accept the Professorship of Anatomy in the Castleton Medical College, Vermont, Leidy entered the office of Dr. P. B. Goddard, then Demonstrator of Anatomy, in the University. He attended the Course of the University for three seasons, and graduated in the Spring of 1844; his thesis being "The comparative Anatomy of the eye of vertebrated animals." Through his fondness for Anatomy, he became intimate with Prof. W. E. Horner, whom he frequently assisted while a student, in preparing the dissections for his lectures.

After graduation, he entered Prof. Hare's Laboratory as an assistant, but left after six weeks, and entered that of Dr. James B. Rogers, with whom he remained until the following winter. In the autumn of the same year, he commenced the practice of medicine.

In the winter, he assisted Dr. Goddard in the demonstrations of the dissecting rooms of the University, but on the resignation of Dr. Goddard, the following winter, and the appointment of Dr. John Neill in his place, Dr. Leidy became Prosector to Dr. Horner.

In the year 1846 the Franklin Medical College was instituted, and Dr. Leidy was elected Demonstrator of Anatomy, which position he occupied the first session.

At this time his attention becoming absorbed by anatomical and physiological pursuits, he relinquished the practice of medicine.

The next Spring, he again associated with Dr. Horner, and gave to his students and others, a private course of Anatomical lectures.

In the spring and summer of 1848, he traveled in Europe in company with Dr. Horner, and examined the extensive museums and hospitals of England, France, and Germany.

The following winter he gave a private course of lectures on Microscopic Anatomy.

In the spring of 1849, he commenced a course of lectures on Physiology, in the Medical Institute, but from illness, induced by labor, was obliged to relinquish all business for several months.

In the spring of 1850, Dr. G. B. Wood was transferred to the chair of Practice in the University, and Dr. Leidy accompanied him to Europe, to aid in the collection of materials for a pathological museum. He af-

terwards continued to act as prosector to Dr. Horner, and as an assistant to Dr. Wood, in the formation of his magnificent Cabinet of Pathology.

In the summer courses of 1851 and 2, Dr. L. gave lectures on Physiology in the Medical Institute.

In the winter of 1852, in consequence of the feeble health of Dr. Horner, with the consent of the Trustees of the University, the Professors appointed him to complete the Anatomical course.

In the spring of 1853, the Trustees of the University elected Dr. L. Professor of Anatomy, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Horner.

Dr. L. has for a number of years taken an active part in the Academy of Natural Sciences, and since 1846, has occupied the position of Chairman of the Curators.

Dr. L.'s literary labours are as follows—In the American Journal of the Medical Sciences :

1. On several important points in the anatomy of the human Larynx; xxiii, 141.
2. Researches into the comparative structure of the Liver; xxv, 13.
3. On the intimate structure and history of the Articular Cartilages, xxvi, 277.
4. On some peculiar bodies observed in the human subject, xl, 80.

In the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences :

5. Notes taken on a visit to White Pond, in Warren County, N. J., ii, 279.
6. Remarks upon the anatomy of the abdominal viscera of the Sloth, *Bradypus tridactylis*, Linn. iii, 72.
7. On the anatomy of *Spectrum femoratum*, Say iii, 80.
8. Description of a new genus and species of Entozoa, iii, 100.
9. On the mechanism which closes the membranous wings of the genus *Locusta*, iii, 104.
10. On *Trichina* in the Hog, iii, 107.
11. On the situation of the olfactory sense in the terrestrial tribe of the Gasteropodous Mollusca, iii, 136.
12. On the existence of a spiculum of bone in the human subject at the point of emergence of the trigeminus nerve from the dura mater, iii, 198.
13. On *Distoma Helicis*, iii, 220.
14. On a curious optical illusion, arising from the peculiar structure of the intervertebral substance of man, iii, 243.
15. Description and anatomy of a new and curious sub-genus of *Planaria*, iii, 248.
16. Descriptions of two new species of *Planaria*, iii, 251.
17. On the fossil Horse of America, iii, 262.
18. On the slow destructibility of animal tissues in certain states, iii, 313.
19. On a new genus and species of fossil Ruminantia. *Pebrotherium Wilsoni*, iii, 322.
20. Remarks on remains of the extinct Horse of America, iii, 328.
21. On the existence of the eye in the perfect condition of the Cirrhopoda, iv, 1.
22. On some bodies in the Boa Constrictor resembling the Pacinian corpuscles, iv, 27.

23. On a new fossil genus and species of Ruminantoid Pachydermata: *Merycododon Culbertsoni*, iv. 47.
24. On the development of the Perkinjean Corpuscle in Bone, iv. 116.
25. On the intimate structure of Articular Cartilage, iv. 117.
26. On the arrangement of the Areolar Sheath of Muscular Fasciculi and its relation to the Tendon, iv. 119.
27. On the existence of the Intermaxillary Bone in the Human Subject, iv. 145.
28. On *Tapirus Americanus Fossilis*, iv. 180.
29. On the Vegetable Parasites of Animals, with a description of new genera and species, iv. 225.
30. On new genera and species of Entozoa, iv. 229.
31. On the Odoriferous Glands of the Invertebrata, iv. 234.
32. Descriptions of new genera and species of Entophyta, iv. 249.
33. Remarks on the Vegetable and Animal Parasites of Animals, v. 7, 8.
34. On some Crystalline Bodies in the Gastric Mucous Membrane of the Larva of a Lepidopterous Insect, v. 32.
35. On new species of American *Annelida Abranchia*, v. 34.
36. Descriptions of new Entophyta growing within Animals, v. 35.
37. On two new genera of extinct Mammalia: *Eucrotaphus Jacksoni* and *Archæotherium Mortoni*, v. 90.
38. Contributions to Helminthology, v. 96.
39. Notes on the development of the *Gordius Aquaticus*, v. 98.
40. Two new species of Infusorial Entozoa, v. 100.
41. Description of some Nematoid Entozoa infesting Insects, v. 100.
42. Description of three Filarie, v. 117.
43. On a new species of extinct Rhinoceros; *R. occidentalis*, v. 119.
44. On the Nettling Organs of the Hydra, v. 119.
45. On remains of extinct Mammalia from Nebraska, v. 121.
46. Description of new genera of Vermes, v. 124.
47. Descriptions of new species of Entozoa, v. 155.
48. On some extinct species of Turtles from Nebraska, v. 172, 173.
49. On the transplantation of Cancer in the Frog, v. 201.
50. On the Fungus Disease of the Mole Cricket, v. 204.
51. Contributions to Helminthology, v. 205.
52. On the introduction of parasites into animals, v. 210.
53. On the transplantation of Cancer in Frogs, v. 212.
54. Helminthological Contributions, v. 224.
55. On extinct Ruminant Ungulates, from Nebraska, v. 237.
56. Helminthological Contributions, v. 239.
57. On *Plumatella Diffusa*, v. 261.
58. On American species of *Gordius*, v. 262.
59. On *Cristatella Magnifica*, v. 265.
60. On the re-production of *Gordius*, v. 266.
61. On *Gordius* Parasitic in the Grasshopper, and on a new species of *Mermis*, v. 275.
62. On extinct Mammalia, from Nebraska, v. 276.
63. On *Spongilla Fragilis*, v. 278.
64. Corrections and additions to former Papers on Helminthology, published in the Proceedings of the Academy, v. 284.
65. On an extinct Crocodile: *Crocodylus Antiquus*, v. 307.
66. On two new species of extinct Whales, v. 308.

67. On some American Fresh-water Polyzoa, v. 320.
68. On new species of extinct Reptilia and Mammalia, v. 325.
69. On some extinct Turtles and Mammals, v. 329.
70. Contributions to Helminthology, v. 349.
71. On a new species of extinct Turtle, vi. 34.
72. On new species of extinct Cetacea and Sauria, vi. 35.
73. On a new extinct Cetacean, vi. 52.
74. On the species of Hippopotamus, vi. 53.
75. On the fossil Turtles of Nebraska, vi. 59.
76. On extinct species of American Ox, vi. 71.
77. On some extinct American Mammalia, vi. 117.
78. On *Tapirus Haysii*, vi. 148.
79. On some extinct Mammalia, vi. 241.
80. On a new species of extinct Bear, vi. 303.
81. On some extinct Cetaceans, vi. No. 10.
82. On extinct Mammalia and Chelonia, from Nebraska, vi. No. 10.
- In the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences :
 83. History and Anatomy of the Hemipterous Genus *Belostoma*, i. 57.
 84. *Miscellanea Zoologica*, i. 67—Reprint from Proceedings.
 85. Descriptions of two species of Distoma, with the partial history of one of them, i. 301.
 86. Descriptions of some American *Annelida Abranchia*, ii. 43.
 87. Description of a new species of Crocodile, from the Miocene of Virginia, ii. 135.
 88. On the Osteology of the head of the Hippopotamus, and a description of the osteological characters of a new genus of Hippopotamidae, ii. 207.
- In the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society :
 89. On the organization of the genus *Gregarina* of Dufour, x. 233.
 90. Some observations on Nematoidea Imperfecta, and descriptions of three parasitic Infusoriae, x. 241.
 91. Description of an extinct species of American Lion: *Felis atrox*, x. 319.
 92. A Memoir on the extinct Dicotylinae of America, x. 323.
- In the Boston Journal of Natural History:
 93. Anatomical description of the animal of *Littorina angulifera*, v. 344.
- In the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences :
 94. Internal anatomy of *Corydalus cornutus* in its three stages of existence, iv, 162.
- In the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge :
 95. A Flora and Fauna within living animals, v.
 96. Memoir on the extinct species of American Ox, v.
 97. The Ancient Fauna of Nebraska, vi.
- In the Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin &c. By D. D. Owen.
 98. Description of the remains of extinct Mammalia and Chelonia, from Nebraska Territory, 535.
- In the Official Report of the U. S. Expedition to explore the Dead Sea, &c. By Lieut. Lynch, U. S. N.
 99. Remarks on the anatomy of *Helix lithophaga*, 207.
- In the "Terrestrial air breathing Molusks of the U. S." By A. Binney :
 100. Special anatomy of the terrestrial Gasteropoda, of the U. S., i. pp. 196-260.

101. American edition of Quain and Sharpey's Quain's Anatomy.

102. Translation from the German of Gluge's Atlas of Pathological Histology.

This catalogue of Dr. Leidy's publications, which will be very valuable to scientific men, appears for the first time in print, and is inserted by request of many of his friends both in this country and in Europe.

The foregoing history of Dr. Leidy, evinces a degree of industry, followed by an abundant reward of professional acquirement, and preferment, of which it will be difficult to find a parallel; and although educated in a common school, and with but few external advantages, his native talent, and arduous pursuit after knowledge in the direction which that talent pointed out, has secured for him at the age of thirty years, a name among the great and honored in science, both abroad and at home, and placed him in a position of usefulness and renown, to which few of his age ever attain. May his future career be even more useful to the world than his past labors; and may he wear his well earned honors with credit to himself, that his name may be as untarnished after him, as his works and researches in the field of science, are bright and enduring.

The Plea of Insanity. By I. S. MULFORD, M. D.

The law of New Jersey, in relation to insanity, has latterly been defined and settled by competent authority. This definition was given by the then Chief Justice Hornblower, in the case of the State against Spencer. Spencer was arraigned upon an indictment for the murder of his wife, and the defence being grounded upon the plea of insanity, it became necessary that the Court should instruct the jury in reference to this point. This was done by the Chief Justice in an elaborate charge. In regard to the nature of insanity, the Chief Justice remarks, "that it is difficult to define in set terms, what insanity is. We all have a notion of what it is, and there is a great variety of phrases by which we are used to designate it. We say of a man who is insane, and has committed some atrocious act while in that state, 'he was out of his head,' 'he had not his senses at the time,' 'his mind was disordered,' 'he was crazy when he did it,' 'he did not know at the time what he was about,' and other language of similar import. The simple question for you to determine, gentlemen, is, whether the accused, at the time, *was conscious that it was an act which he ought not to do.* If he was conscious of this, he cannot be excused on the score of insanity; he is then amenable to the law. But if it is your opinion that, at the time of committing the act, he was unconscious that he ought not to do it, or in other words, in-

capable of distinguishing between right and wrong, in a moral point of view, then you have nothing further to do but to render a verdict of acquittal on the score of insanity." Again, "if you are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt, that he was insane, the next question for you to consider will be, whether his insanity was such as to render him incapable of committing crime. For there are many kinds of insanity, and there are all degrees of insanity, and it is not every kind nor every degree of insanity that will render a man irresponsible for acts of atrocity. As I said before, if the prisoner, at the time of committing the act, was conscious that he ought not to do it, the law holds him responsible, and he cannot be exculpated on the ground of insanity, although on some subjects he may have been insane at the time. Whatever the insanity of the person may amount to, if he is conscious at the time of committing an atrocious act, and has reason enough to know that he ought not to do it, he is guilty in the eye of the law."

Substantially, the doctrine here laid down, agrees with that which was long received, without question, in the English courts. It has been conceded at all times that insanity exempts from the punishment due to crime; but more difficulty has been experienced in determining the question as to the real nature of the disorder that will give a claim to such exemption. One of the first attempts toward a precise solution of this question, was that made by Lord Hale. A kind of test was proposed by him, by which the capability and consequent responsibility of accused persons might be determined. "Such a person," says he, "as, laboring under melancholy distempers, yet hath ordinarily as great understanding as ordinarily a child of fourteen years hath, is such a person as may be guilty of felony." As a further explanation of his views, he also says, "that to exculpate a person from the penalty attached to criminal actions, there must be a defect of understanding unequivocal and plain, not the mere impulse of passion, or of idle frantic humour, or unaccountable mode of action, but an absolute dispossession of the free and natural agency of the human mind." At a later period it was said by another authority, "that in order to be excused from crime on the ground of insanity, a man must labor under such a deprivation of reason, as renders him as senseless as a brute or an infant." By Lord Mansfield, it was said, "that it must be proved, beyond all doubt, that at the time he committed the atrocious act with which he stood charged, he did not consider murder was a crime against the laws of God and nature." With some variation in the mode and tone of expression, the principle was maintained, that in order to excuse a man in the commission of crime,

he must have been wholly incapable, at the time, of distinguishing between good and evil, or of comprehending the nature of his acts.

But, notwithstanding the strong authority in favor of this rule, it can only be admitted, at this time, with many exceptions; and where such issues are involved, it is important that the exceptions which may occur, should be known, and well understood.

The first, or at least the first well known instance of decided dissent from this doctrine, occurred on the trial of Hadfield, for shooting at the King in Drurylane theatre. In this case, the Attorney General laid down the doctrine before mentioned, in the strongest terms, declaring, that to protect a person from criminal responsibility "there must be a total deprivation of memory and understanding." The accused was defended by the celebrated Erskine, and in his reply he said, that if the expressions used, were to be taken in their literal sense, then such a case had never existed; for that in proper madness (excluding idiocy and fatuity) there was never a total deprivation of memory and understanding. In all the cases, he said, that had occupied attention in Westminster Hall, the subjects not only had memory, but also a perfect knowledge and recollection of the relations in which they stood. He declared further, that so far from being deprived of reason, they had generally been remarkable for subtlety and acuteness; that defects in their reasoning had seldom been traceable.

The statement of Erskine, at least in regard to a leading point, is nearly borne out by the experience of careful medical observers. The opinion is given by Dr. Evans, physician to the Friends' Asylum, at Frankford, that the rule, making a knowledge of the character of acts, the true test of accountability, "would embrace within the scope of its application, more than one half of the inmates of all the Asylums and Hospitals devoted to the insane." Presented in other words, this opinion will go to show, that the larger number of all those who are so insane as to be confined in Asylums and Hospitals, have yet sufficient understanding to determine the character of acts: of consequence they would, according to our law, be held accountable for any offence they might commit. But he said, although these persons were not destitute of memory and understanding, yet they were under the influence of some delusive idea; taking that for real which was either wholly or partly false, and reasoning and acting from these false notions. A delusion in regard to some special subject or thing, must be acknowledged to be a widely different condition of mind from a total deprivation of reason, or such an impairment of it, as destroys all power of distinguishing between right and

wrong. That the former of these was to be taken as the true test of insanity, was the view to which Erskine continued to adhere, and this test has also been adopted by other authorities, and has been made the basis of opinions in courts. This new view, or the doctrine it embraces, was afterwards, made the subject of special consideration by the law judges of England collectively, in consequence of a series of questions directed to them by the House of Lords. Under some ambiguity of language, the answers made by the judges appear to convey the opinion, that delusion in itself, cannot be admitted as a ground of excuse: that if the subject, at the time, notwithstanding the existence of such delusion, is able to distinguish between right and wrong, he must be held accountable for his acts.

Upon this opinion it may be remarked, that if it be admitted that during the existence of insane delusion, the subject may continue to have a knowledge of the nature of such acts as come within the sphere of his delusion, still, if it be the delusion that controls his conduct, (as certainly it often is,) then the bare knowledge he has, must be null and of no effect. To require that it should have its usual influence, amounts to a demand, that an insane man shall not be governed by his insane notions, but, on the contrary, shall always conduct himself in a sane and proper manner, or otherwise suffer the penalty. Nevertheless, the law Judges of England were of opinion, that this bare knowledge is all that can or ought to be considered, and hence they went backward, and re-affirmed the ancient doctrine. But in framing their several answers, the judges fell into some inconsistencies of expression, which may serve, and which have been used, as a ground of exception against the doctrine intended to be maintained. In one instance it is said that the accused is punishable, if he knew, at the time, *that he was acting contrary to law—the law of the land.*

In another instance it is said, that in order to excuse a man from the consequences of his acts, there must be such a defect of reason as that *he did not know he was doing what was wrong.* The terms here used, admit the construction, that two different standards of action are given and set up; that which the law prescribes, and that moral sense which exists in the mind of the subject. A man may commit an act which he knows to be contrary to law, and which yet he may think to be right and proper for him, under the peculiar circumstances in which he conceives himself to be placed. This was seen in the case before cited, that of Hadfield; he was fully conscious, and admitted that he had transgress-

ed the law of the land, but still believed that he had done *no wrong*; the end in his view fully justifying the act.*

It is also quite possible, indeed such cases have frequently occurred, that a man may have entire consciousness of the character of acts, both in a legal and "in a moral point of view," and yet, under the influence of some strong delusion, these ordinary standards of action may be quite disregarded. This may happen, because that, whilst the rule is apprehended with sufficient clearness, the subject is prevented by his delusion from making the proper application of such rule to his own acts. Upon this subject, Dr. Evans remarks, that the capacity of many of those who are so insane as to be fit subjects of hospitals, to distinguish between right and wrong in their ordinary relations, is well known to all who have been in the habit of mingling with and observing them, and it is not unfrequently the case that patients whose delusions render them violent and dangerous at times, are nevertheless, perfectly competent to point out what is right and wrong in the abstract, and will expatiate on the impropriety of conduct manifested by others, or denounce the wrong which they are quick to detect. While, however, this capacity to discriminate between right and wrong, is so far unimpaired, there may be some hallucination completely obscuring the connection of certain of their own acts, with that which they know to be wrong in the abstract, and which they would deprecate in others.* But sometimes there is more than this; the subject may not only have a knowledge of the rules of action generally, but he may also be quite able to perceive the usual bearing of these rules upon his own acts; the difficulty is not in any lack in this respect; but he believes that the ordinary rules of conduct are entirely superseded in his case. He knows that murder is a great crime according to the decisions of law and of morals; but he is under an insane belief that he is called upon to act according to another and a higher standard. A voice from heaven he will say, demands of him a sacrifice, and he obeys by destroying the object he believes himself to be required to give up, though it be, as it often is, the object which has been

* Hadfield imagined "that he had constant intercourse with our Saviour; that the world was coming to a conclusion, and that it was necessary that he should sacrifice himself for its salvation; and so obstinately did this morbid idea continue, that he went to the theatre to perform, as he imagined, that blessed sacrifice; and because he would not be guilty of suicide, though called upon by the voice of heaven, he wished, that by the appearance of crime, his life might be taken from him by others. Under this insane delusion, he fired at the King." According to the principle of one of the rules above given, this man must have been condemned—by the other he should have been acquitted.—*Ray's Jurisprudence of Insanity*, p. 45.

the dearest to him of any upon earth. In such a case, shall the knowledge of law, the consciousness of right and wrong which he possesses, be that by which he shall be judged, and the insane belief which overrules his consciousness, be left entirely out of view?

[To be continued.]

Remarkable Case of Rupture of the Uterus. By J. L. DAY, M. D.

Dec. 5, 1851, called to see Mrs. T. a mulatto woman, in labor with her fifth child: on examination, found the head presenting at the superior strait—uterine contractions, regular and firm, continued for some time, but of no avail in bringing the vertex into the pelvis:—after a delay of several hours, sent for an assistant. On consultation it was decided to deliver with the forceps, which was done without injury and with instant relief to the mother, no unpleasant symptoms manifesting themselves. The forceps were used because we could see no good ground to believe from the results of existing contractions, that any number of them would avail to expel the child. The child, large in all its parts, was still-born. The placenta removed presently from the vagina. Here I may remark, that perhaps very often, the occasion of children being still-born, is, that cases are left too long to nature, the contractions though insufficient to expel the child, are yet sufficient to detach the placenta. That being detached, the child not being able to assume independent life till expelled, must die. The books give directions to deliver at once in such cases, and the guides to determine such a state of things are, hemorrhage and auscultation.

The escape of blood, in some cases, may be not sufficient to excite alarm; the passage being fully closed by the presenting part of the fœtus. No longer ago than yesterday, I attended a case in which the membranes were ruptured by myself, and scarce any fluid escaped till the head and chest were fully delivered, and then there was a small flood. Auscultation is not in all cases satisfactory, at any rate I am free to acknowledge that I cannot detect the precise moment when the fluttering of the fœtal heart betokens danger to the child; and again, this separation may be premature—not anticipated nor indicated by the severity of any of the previous uterine contractions.

May 4, 1853, called to see Mrs. T. in sixth labor—nothing remarkable in her symptoms, except acute sensibility to the feeblest uterine contractions, and pulse weaker than usual in the commencement of labor.

She was, at her own suggestion, stimulating the expulsive efforts by the use of black-pepper tea, in the hope of being the sooner relieved. She stated that she had been unable to sit up in the bed for some weeks before, the burden being so low, and projecting over the pubis. On examination per vag. the presentation high up as before, was difficult to make out. Rupture of the membranes revealed on a subsequent examination, a breech presentation. Some advancement of the presenting part, though slow, encouraged the belief that it would not be necessary to interfere. There was still a gradual failure of the pulse and I sent for an assistant. The usual diagnostic marks of rupture of the uterus were not present. The physician called in, predicted a favorable issue, advising the use of the hook, with this little or no progress was made. The patient exerted herself violently, and we soon saw she was rapidly sinking—the breech was displaced and the feet grasped—but we were able only to bring the feet outside the vulva—no reasonable force availing to advance them. She died, the child was unborn. Immediately section of the linea alba was made, and the child removed, the head presenting in the cavity of the abdomen. There was a longitudinal rupture in the anterior portion of the womb. The child immensely large, was also dead. On examination of the uterus thus exposed, we were struck with the extreme thinness, not more than a line in thickness, of the part in which the rupture was. (What must have been its extreme tenuity before the rupture?) The posterior portion was equally remarkable, that being nearly two *inches* in thickness—and when taken between the thumb and finger, was readily penetrated or broken down, between them. We could not decide how long this womb had been diseased, hypertrophied in one part, and atrophied in another. We could not but believe that here was manifest the reason that in her former labor so little force seemed expended in the right direction. We now saw things as they were, and much to our regret our patient was all too suddenly dead. Yet even now we could not tell whether the rupture was occasioned by the too powerful contractions of the thicker portion, or whether all the contractions were confined to the paper like substance of the anterior portion.

Could we have known the actual condition of the uterus, we should have made the effort to deliver by the feet at the earliest possible moment.

What occasioned the unusual feeble pulse noticeable at the first visit and what occasioned the extreme sensibility—the acute pain from contractions which in ordinary cases is not present? These symptoms were

narrowly watched, and though alarming, we confess we did not anticipate so sudden and fatal a termination to the labor. And in conclusion we would ask, were the muscular fibres already separated by the constant pressure of the foetal head, (indicated by the complaint of inability to sit up in bed and rest the prominent abdomen upon the thighs) and were the overlying tissues, only left to yield to the uterine force more readily than the presenting part could be adapted to the natural passage?

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Sept. 1853.

Case of Difficult and Protracted Labor. BY ARIEL HUNTON, M. D.

On the morning of July 4th 1853, I was called to visit Mrs. J. in labor with her fourth child; her pains were so forcible before my arrival she supposed she should not wait for me. Soon after my arrival there was a remission; and they nearly ceased; about ten o'clock I made an examination, the os-uteri was well dilated, and the distended membranes perceptible, but no appearance of a child. At three o'clock, subsequent to another examination, I proceeded to rupture the membranes, the fluid discharged was five quarts; the lady then observed she felt perfectly well. Now, on examining, the shoulder and arm presented, the head to the right inguinal region, the nates, and feet to left. The pains entirely subsided, I waited over twenty-four hours, uterine pains did not return to any useful purpose. Uterine hemorrhage commencing, and the attendants showing great anxiety, and their fears communicated to the patient, she importuned me to wait no longer, but relieve her of her burthen, which I proceeded to do. In the operation of turning, I place my patient across the bed on her back, with the head lower than the hips, by raising the side of the bed on which I sit, or stand, four to six inches, in order that gravity may operate on the viscera, and cause them to recede from the pelvis; it will greatly facilitate the introduction of the hand. The thighs are now flexed on the abdomen, the legs on the thighs, the knees asunder, a lady at each limb to keep them in situ; now the right hand lubricated, the index finger of the left hand introduced into the vagina, with it press the perineum towards the os coecyx, then introduce the right hand, and search for the feet or foot, it being about as safe to grasp one as both. In the case under consideration, the child was so closely invested by the contracted uterus, it was with difficulty I grasped one foot; after turning, and bringing it to the external passage, I

waited until uterine exertion occurred, and then I proceeded cautiously, and brought down the other foot, then extracted the child to the shoulders, and brought down the arms, the child being large. The head now remaining in the pelvis, and probably wholly in the vagina, uterine pains cannot expel it; in order to facilitate the passage of the occiput from under the arch of the pubis, I raise the body of the child nearly to a right angle with that of the mother, and use force in that direction, the face will slide through the perineum, and relieve the occiput from under the arch; the child was still born.

Rupturing the membranes in cases of mid-wifery is condemned by most of the old writers. In Hamilton's midwifery, and Smellie's tables, a plate will be recollected, where the membranes are protruding through the os-uteri, though such instances are very rare to the extent represented by the plate. When the os-uteri is well dilated, and the membranes are distended, I uniformly rupture them, and expect labor will progress more rapidly, and am seldom disappointed; the uterus will then contract, and operate with more force.* In a spontaneous rupture with the os well dilated, the child will soon follow; so with an artificial rupture.

For the perforation, or rupture of the investing membranes, I have invented the neatest, safest and most portable little instrument, ever exhibited; I have not applied for a patent, being conscious it will answer as well without. Trim the nail of the right index finger, from right to left, and left to right, to a point in the centre, in the form of a pyramid, or like the point of a lancet, let the sharp end project a trifle beyond the point of the finger. This instrument has served me in the capacity designated for more than twenty years. Some of our late writers recommend a rupture of the membranes in certain cases, in the use of a wire, or probe. I prefer my own instrument, and the faculty are welcome to the benefit of it, without a patent.

Hydepark, Vt., Sept. 11th 1853.

*Ought not the vaginal muscles and perineum to be well relaxed, in addition to the os-uteri, before rupturing the membranes? We have often known it dilated, and yielding, when there was great rigidity of the soft parts, which in our experience is not a very favorable state of things for the rupture of the sac.—ED.

Operation for Excision of a Malignant Tumor of the Upper Jaw.

BY FRANK SMITH, M. D.

Mrs. Simmons aet. 60, had suffered for a month or two from a deep seated pain in the left cheek, when she noticed a gradual enlargement extending from under the eye back to the ear, but as it was not very painful, did not excite much alarm.

Shortly, however, she found the first molar tooth beginning to protrude and in a few days it was pushed entirely from the socket. From this time a tumour of a sarcomatous appearance began rapidly to fill her mouth. To form some idea of the rapidity of its growth, in ten days it increased from the size of an almond to that of a hen's egg, preventing the closing of the mouth. Pressure was evidently made on the orbit, and the tumor rapidly extended towards the ear.

Conceiving that a speedy operation afforded my patient the only chance of cure, I called in Drs. Moran and Allen, who fully concurred in my opinion. We commenced the operation by marking semi-circular incisions, commencing about an inch from the external angle of the eye, forward and downward, to the corner of the mouth, so as to avoid the infra-orbital foramen, and the parotid duct. On dissecting back the flap a considerable portion of the tumor was found protruding from the antrum, through an aperture caused by the absorption of the bone. The bone contiguous to the disease was found elastic and disorganized. With a small saw and gouge, the alveolar and palatine processes were divided back to, and including a portion of the palatine plate. After loosening the anterior portion of the tumor, some difficulty was found in removing it from its adhesions to the turbinated bones and to the inferior part of the orbit where it has its origin; the malar process was cut off by the absorption of the bone; after dissecting back towards the ear, it was found necessary to remove the bone entirely, back to the pterygoid process, which, being done the diseased mass was loosened, and finished the material part of the operation.

The actual cautery was freely used wherever the tumor had adhered. The hemorrhage was inconsiderable and easily controlled by pressure. The integument was replaced, and adhered by the adhesive process leaving little scar. At this date some appearance of a return of the disease has showed itself. I have freely cauterized it, but whether I shall be able to make a perfect cure is uncertain.

I have no drawing of the tumor, which was of very considerable size, and withal of a very unpromising appearance. Its peculiarity consisted

in that although it had a firm fleshy feel, it grew with astonishing rapidity, and seemed to realize all that has been said of the terrible ravages of fungoid disease.

Hamburgh, N. J., Sept. 1853.

"A Flora and Fauna within Living Animals."

[Such is the title of a book by Joseph Leidy, M. D., published by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington City, in April, 1853. Its circulation is very limited, and as the Introduction comprises a summary of the most recent physiological researches into the theory of life, we shall present it to our readers in two numbers.—ED.]

The recent excellent works by Dujardin,* Diesing,† and Robin,‡ upon animal and vegetable parasites of living animals, render another systematic record of the labors in this field almost superfluous; and the object of the present memoir is simply to give the result of a series of observations, commenced several years ago, upon associated entozoa and entophyta, constituting a flora and fauna within animals.

The existence of entozoa, or of animals living within other species has, from the most remote time, attracted attention, on account of the peculiarity, of their position, the unpleasant ideas associated with them, the sufferings they frequently induce, and the difficulty of explaining their mode of origin.

The entozoa have always constituted the strongest support to the doctrine of equivocal or spontaneous generation, one which has found distinguished disciples even to the present time; but since the days when barnacles were supposed to originate from the foam of the ocean, and ducks and geese to be developed from barnacles, this belief has been so weakened by the accumulation of facts, undenied and undeniable by the supporters of the doctrine, that it bids fair soon to be little more than an echo of the past.

The existence of vegetable parasites within animals, or of entophyta, from their minuteness, remained unknown, until the microscope of Leewenhoek detected the algoid filaments of the human mouth; but it is only within a comparatively recent period that any large number of distinct parasitic plants has been discovered.

The very great majority of modern observations indicate that entozoa and entophyta are produced from germs derived from parents, and having a cyclical developement.

A great difficulty in determining the course of this developement, particularly with entozoa, is, that their various stages of existence are passed under totally different circumstances; sometimes within one organ and

* *Histoire Naturelle des Helminthes*, Paris 1845.

† *Systema Helminthum*, Vindobonae, 1850.

‡ *Des Vegetaux qui croissent sur l'homme et sur les animaux vivants*, Paris, 1847.

then another of the same animal; sometimes in several animals; and at other times, even quite external to and independent of the animals they infest. If, however, an entozoon preserved the same form throughout its migrations, the difficulty just mentioned would be easily overcome; but such is not the case; for the alteration of form is frequently, and probably always, so great that two successive conditions cannot be recognized as the same.*

When however, entozoa have been traced to their highest condition of development, they have always been found to possess well-characterized organs of reproduction, and the females contain such multitudes of eggs as to render it no longer surprising to find intestinal worms so frequently in vast quantities. The entophyta, when fully studied, have been satisfactorily traced to sporules.

Under the circumstances above mentioned, it is very unreasonable even,

* Thus, almost everybody is familiar with the *Gordius*, or hair-worm, vulgarly supposed to be a transformed horse-hair. The animal is rather common in brooks and creeks in the latter part of summer and in autumn, occurring from a few inches to a foot in length. Its color passes through all shades of brown to black, and it is perfectly hair-like in its form, except that in the male the tail end is bifurcated, in the female trifurcated (American species). No one has yet been able to trace the animal to its origin! The female deposits in the water, in which it is found, millions of eggs connected together in long cords. In the course of three weeks, the embryos escape from the eggs, of a totally different form and construction from the parents. Their body is only the 1-450th of an inch long, and consists of two portions; the posterior cylindrical, slightly dilated and rounded at the free extremity, where it is furnished with two short spines; and the anterior broader, cylindrical, and annulated, having the mouth furnished with two circlets of protractile tentacles and a club-shaped proboscis. No one has yet been able to determine what becomes of the embryo in its normal cyclical course. Those which I have observed, always died a few days after escaping from the egg.

The grasshoppers in the meadows below the city of Philadelphia are very much infested with a species of *Gordius*, probably the same as the former, but in a different stage of development. More than half the grasshoppers in the locality mentioned contain them; but those in drier places, as in the fields west and north of Philadelphia, are quite rarely infested, for I have frequently opened large numbers without finding one worm.

The number of *Gordii* in each insect varies from one to five, their length from three inches to a foot; they occupy a position in the visceral cavity, where they lie coiled among the viscera, and often extend from the end of the abdomen forward through the thorax even into the head; their bulk and weight are frequently greater than all the soft parts, including the muscles, of their living habitation. Nevertheless, with this relatively immense mass of parasites, the insects jump about almost as freely as those not infested.

The worms are milk-white in color, and undivided at the extremities. The females are distended with ova, but I have never observed them extruded.

When bodies of grasshoppers, containing these entozoa, are broken and lain upon moist earth, the worms gradually creep out and pass below its surface. Some specimens which crawled out of the bodies of grasshoppers, and penetrated into earth contained in a bowl, last August, have undergone no change, and are alive at the present time (November, 1852.)

In the natural condition, when the grasshoppers die, the worms creep from the body and enter the earth; for, suspecting the fact, I spent an hour looking over a meadow for dead grasshoppers, and, having discovered five, beneath two of them, several inches below the surface, I found the *Gordii* which had escaped from the corpses.

Some of the worms put in water lived for about four weeks, and then died from the growth of *Achlya prolifera*. What is their cyclical development?

The facts presented in this note serve well to show the difficulties in ascertaining the developmental history of entozoa.

to suppose the necessity of spontaneous generation for animals, which, in such very numerous instances have been proved to possess as great capabilities of reproduction as those whose cyclical developement is more evident; and it remains for the supporters of the doctrine to present one single direct observation, before even its probability can be asserted.

To learn fully the nature, origin, and most favorable conditions of entozoic and entophytic life, we must commence our investigations with a clear view of the character and conditions of life in general.

An attentive study of geology proves that there was a time when no living bodies existed upon the earth.

The oblately spheroidal form of the earth, and the physical constitution of its periphery, indicate that it was once in a molten state.

A progressively increasing temperature in descending into the interior of the earth beyond the solar influence, with the phenomena of volcanoes, earthquakes, hot springs, etc., are strong evidences that the central mass of this planet yet preserves its early igneous condition.

The period which elapsed was incalculably great before the earth-crust upon its liquid nucleus had sufficiently cooled by the radiation of its heat for living beings to become capable of existing upon its surface. Not until the temperature had been reduced below the boiling point of water (212° F.) could life have originated, for water in its liquid condition is necessary to the simplest phenomenon of life. It is even highly probable that no living thing appeared upon the earth's surface until its temperature had fallen below 165°. This ordinarily is the highest point at which albumen coagulates,* a substance in the liquid form, probably existent in all living beings, and essential to the performance of the simplest vital phenomenon.

Living beings, characterised by a peculiar structure and series of phenomena, appeared upon earth at a definite though very remote period.

Composed of the same ultimate elements which constitute the earth, they originated in the pre-existing materials of their structure.

Living beings originate in a formless liquid matter. The first step in organization is the appearance of a solid particle. An aggregation of organic particles constitutes the spherical, vesicular, nucleolated, nucleated body, the organic cell, the type of the physical structure or organization of living beings.

The phenomena which characterize the living being are: 1. Origin, or birth; 2, nutrition and assimilation; 3, excretion;† 4, development and growth; 5, reproduction; 6, death. These, in the aggregate, constitute life.

* Vegetable albumen coagulates at from 140 to 160 degrees F.; animal albumen, from 145 to 165 degrees.—Turner's *Chemistry*, American edition, pp. 740, 744.

Albumen in the liquid state "on being heated to 140 degrees begins to give indications of coagulating, if the solution is very dilute, the temperature may be raised to 165 degrees without the occurrence of this change; and when present in very small quantity, the albumen may not separate till the fluid boils, or even until the ebullition has been prolonged for a short time."—Simon's *Chemistry of Man*, Am. ed. 1846 p. 24.

† *Exuro*, I consume.

The origin or birth of a living being, is the appearance of its first particle, whether directly from inorganic nature or from a parent. There is a birth to every organic cell.

Nutrition and assimilation are associated in all living actions, being coeval with the birth of a living being, and ceasing only upon its death.

During life, particles of the living structure become effete, and are removed by consumption or exuration, through the agency of the oxygen of the atmosphere. This process has been confounded with that of respiration, a function of especial organs, the lungs, branchiæ, tracheæ which exist in higher animals only; it is really secondary to the more important process of life exuration. Exuration occurs in plants as well as in animals; in germination of the seed and in inflorescence it is very evident. In the growing plant, exuration is usually masked by the peculiar character and activity of the process of nutrition; but at night, when the nutrition of the plant is at rest, the exuration becomes marked in the evolution of carbonic acid.

Development and growth are definite in each species of living being.

Reproduction perpetuates the structure as well as the species of the living being.

Death commences with life in the destruction of effete molecules of structure; it is the cessation of all life-phenomena in the individual, or is the last phenomenon of life.

To live, requires certain indispensable conditions never absent from life; always preceding it. These consist of the specific components of the living body together with the constant presence of water, air, and a definite range of temperature.

The constituent matter of living beings necessarily precedes the phenomena of life.

Without water there could be no movement to indicate life.

Air is necessary to exuration. No living being is found out of its influence. The minutest radicle of a plant never penetrates into the earth beyond the access of air.

The range of temperature necessary to life is between 35° F.* and 135° F.†

Life cannot exist independently of any one of the above mentioned conditions. In very many instances, the removal of certain of the indispensable conditions of life-action may take place without the destruction of the power of living when these conditions are restored. Thus, many plants and animals, seeds and eggs, may be dried; yet, upon supplying

* The so-called red snow, *Protococcus nivalis*, Agardh., an algaous plant of polar and alpine regions, grows and reproduces only upon thawing snow, though it may be found beneath virgin snow and in a temperature far below zero; nevertheless, in such circumstances it has ceased all activity, and may remain so for a long period. The plant is remarkably indestructible. I have a specimen contained in melted snow-water, yet alive and of a red color, December, 1852, which was brought by the enterprising traveller, Dr. E. K. Kane, U. S. N., from Cape Beverly, latitude 76.10, during the Grinnell expedition for 1850—51, in search of Sir John Franklin.

† Certain algae grow in thermal springs, of the temperature of 117 degrees F.

moisture to them, with all the other conditions, they will again present the characteristic phenomena of life.

Probably every species has a definite course to run in consequence of a general law; an origin, an increase, a point of culmination, a decline, and an extinction. Within this course there may occur, under the influence of ordinary circumstances, cycles of temporary increase and diminution, until, finally, the entire machine of life of the species runs down.

The indispensable conditions of life are susceptible of a great variety of modifications, within a definite range, without its destruction.

Accompanying a variation of essential conditions of life, is presented the immense number of specific and individual peculiarities of living beings. The variation consists in the difference of the relative quantities of the indispensable conditions required and supplied, in addition to a modifying influence of light, probably of electricity, and possibly of some other, but yet unknown agency.

The absence or presence of light is a highly important modifying condition to those indispensable to life. With the solar light, we find the green plant, which constitutes the basis of life with most terrestrial animals. Without it, the green plant and its dependent animals could not exist, but another race, now represented by certain cryptogamia, and the animal denizens of dark caverns, might inhabit the earth.

A species of plant or animal may be defined to be an immutable organic form, whose characteristic distinctions may always be recognized by a study of its history.

Any species may present individual forms not characteristic; for all, in the progress of development and course of life, are liable to modification within definite limits, which cannot be transcended without cessation of action. The original proposition is, however, not affected, for no one has ever been able to demonstrate the transmutation of one species into another.

The most ordinary and extensive modifications of species from the characteristic type are presented by arrests of development. Hence, the necessity of studying the history or cyclical course of a species in order to be capable of always recognizing it.

A modification of condition beyond the range of specific life-action, must necessarily, result in the extinction of the species.

The study of the earth's crust teaches us that very many species of plants and animals became extinct at successive periods, while other races originated to occupy their places. This probably was the result, in many cases, of a change in exterior conditions incompatible with the life of certain species, and favorable to the primitive production of others. But such a change does not always satisfactorily explain the extinction of species.*

* Thus, there are numerous instances of species of animals which have become extinct, and their place supplied by others so closely allied, that it is difficult to comprehend how the exterior conditions for their existence should be so different; as in the case of the *Equus Primigenius*, *E. Americanus*, &c., which have given place to the *E. caballus*, the *Bos primigenius* whose place, is supplied by the *Bos taurus*, the *Bison latifrons* by the *Bison Americanus*, &c.

The historical period of man is too short to ascertain with certainty whether such a view be correct, but it appears to be favored by analogy. The power of reproduction is limited in each individual. Plants may be reproduced to an incalculable extent by cuttings, but ultimately the power to reproduce in this manner becomes exhausted. The perennial plant puts forth phyton after phyton, but the seed is necessary to its perpetuation. Numerous lower animals are reproduced to a vast extent by segmentation or allied processes, but ultimately a recurrence to sexual admixture becomes necessary for the preservation of the species.* Sexual admixture, limited to a few families of a species, soon ends in their extinction. Finally the complex living being, from birth to death, produces an immensity of living organisms, the organic cells; but the egg and seed are necessary to insure the species against extinction.

Living beings did not exist upon earth prior to their indispensable conditions of action, but wherever these have been brought into operation concomitantly, the former originated; and for such an immensity of time and vastness in quantity, have they existed, that most of the superficial rocks of the earth's crust are composed of their remains.

The stratum of life has been always subjected to the destructive agency of earthquakes, volcanoes, and torrents; but it is wonderful how soon, under the play of the life-conditions, the new surface again teems with living beings. Here and there, upon the wide area of the earth, an igneous rock peeps out as if to observe the monopoly of life, but even this, in the progress of time, has its steep sides hidden by lichens and its summit enveloped in verdure.

* Instances in favor of the view are numerous; among others, I have met with a striking example in the case of a worm, to which I have given the name of *Stylaris fossularis* (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. V. 287.) This worm is found abundantly in ditches in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, during warm weather, and is constantly observed to be undergoing division. Individuals, a third of an inch long, are usually found to consist of two divisions, and occasionally of three, in various stages of progress towards separation. The divisions are composed of about twenty-two annulations, each possessed of a pair of fasciculi of five podal spines and two bristles. The head consists of a large lobe with a long digit-like appendage, and presents an eye upon each side of a large mouth. The latter opens into a capacious pharynx, which afterwards contracts into a cylindrical œsophagus, continuous with a well-developed intestine, but within the animal no trace of a generative apparatus can be perceived.

In the course of a season, a single individual may reproduce some millions simply by segmentation; but as cold weather approaches, we find the animal to lose this power—not resulting from the influence of the cold, but from exhaustion of the power; because even if the worms be placed in a warm situation, as in the window of a warm room, where the sun may shine upon the vessel containing them, they are observed to cease division. The loss of power of this mode of reproduction, is, however, compensated for by another succession of developments.

The worms grow to an inch in length and are composed of sixty annulations, each being provided with double the previous number of podal spines. Within the body, an androgynous generative apparatus becomes developed; within the ovaries are developed ova, and within the testis, spermatozoa. Two individuals copulate, eggs contained in bottle-shaped cases are extruded, and ultimately the parent dies.

After some weeks, in a warm situation, the ova are hatched, the young escape and move freely about, and soon commence to reproduce their numbers by division.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

The Maternal Management of Children in health and disease. By THOMAS BULL, M. D., member of the Royal College of Physicians; author of "Hints to mothers," for the management of their health during pregnancy and the lying-in room. Second edition: Philadelphia, Lindsay and Blakiston, 1853.

The book before us, occupies, with its index, 423 octavo pages, and these are devoted to the discussion of the various topics embraced in the comprehensive title. The management of children in health and disease, the reader will perceive allows a wide field for observation and research: the duty of mothers during the period of nursing, with rules to regulate their health in the course of this period, and directions for the choice and management of wet nurses; the diet of children, in the various stages of infancy and childhood, with hygienic rules; instructions relative to the use and abuse of medicines; and important suggestions on the subject of vaccination, and teething, constitute the first part of the book. The second part is devoted to the management of children, in disease; presenting general remarks on illness, and hints for the early detection of disease in the child, by the mother; the accidents and maladies which may occur at birth or soon after, with those of later infancy and childhood: useful hints upon the maternal management of all these disorders, with a final chapter on the prevention of scrofula and consumption.

This book, written for the nursery, as well as for the physician's library, is replete with useful hints even to the experienced practitioner, and certainly the trans-atlantic mothers have reason to fortify themselves against the inroads of disease, from the startling announcement made at the commencement of the introductory remarks, as follows, viz: "One child in five dies within a year after birth, and one in three before the completion of the fifth year." While this average embraces the *whole of England and Wales*, the cities and the great metropolis will render a still more frightful proportion. This is an alarming truth for all *babydom*, and it behooves American as well as British mothers, to heed and learn from Dr. Bull, what he desires to teach them.

Elements of Health and Principles of Female Hygiene. By E. J. TILT M. D., Senior Physician to the Farringdon General Dispensary and Lying-in Charity, and to the Paddington Free Dispensary for diseases of women and children. Philadelphia, Lindsay and Blakiston, 1853, pp. 436.

The reputation of Dr. Tilt, as a writer on female diseases, will secure for the book before us, a welcome, alike to the domestic fire-side, and to the physician's sanctum. The study of the human constitution in its moral, mental, and physical elements, seem to be the chief point in the work, and the results of a violation of the mutual harmony of the laws of life, as manifested in moral infirmity, mental disease, and physical death, are clearly set forth. The various stages of life, from early infancy to the closing scene, are considered with reference to their diseases, and hygiene, and much valuable information imparted, particularly in the matter of food and clothing, both for mothers and children. This is a subject in which we feel much interested, and it would accord with our taste and inclination to give a few excellent extracts from Dr. Tilt, upon this subject, but the space allowed to our Bibliographical department, forbids extended remark. Physicians should recommend it to their patients, as a valuable aid to their own advice and labors.

A MATERIA MEDICA ANIMALIA: *Containing the Scientific Analysis, Natural History, and Chemical and Medical Properties and Uses, of the substances that are the products of Beasts, Birds, Fishes or Insects, illustrated by colored Engravings of Original Drawings Copied from Nature.* BY PETER P. GOODE, Editor of the Family Herald, and Materia Medica Botanica. Cambridge, Mass., Published by the Author.

Our readers are already familiar with the Author of the *Materia Medica Animalia*. He gives us in the book before us, first, a tolerably good portrait of himself, (and certainly when a man has spent his life in the field of Science culling its fruits for the benefit of others, until his head is printed with age, he deserves a portrait,) then he furnishes colored engravings of various animals belonging to other families than those of man, among them, from the sea are taken the coral, sponge, oyster, cod, sturgeon and whale; from the field and forrest the ox the boar, and the sheep, the civet cat, the musk-ox and hog. Then from the ditch, snakes, beaver's leeches &c., while flies, bees, spiders, snails, earth-worms and beetles come in for their throne of respectful notice, in the way of describing, their geographical descriptive quality, essential, secondary

and specific characters, natural history &c., and the materials they severally furnish for the *Materia Medica*. The book is novel in its design, and the embellishments we should think pretty well executed—we wish its author good success in this new enterprise.

* On account of the overcrowded state of our columns, and for other reasons, we are obliged to postpone the notice of the following works, which will receive due attention in our next. “*Miller’s Practice of Surgery* ;” “*Walton’s Operative Ophthalmic Surgery* ;” “*Wythe’s Microscopist* ;” and “*Physician’s Visiting List* .”

EDITORIAL.

THE RELATION OF THE NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SOCIETY TO THE STATE LAW.

The fact that the Statute book of New Jersey has always contained provisions for the encouragement of the medical profession, and the protection of society against the inroads of uneducated or unprincipled “pretenders to the healing art,” imparts an interest and importance to our relative position at this time, that is not realized, probably, in any other state of the Union. In New Jersey, we, as a society, are older than the state. In our colonial history, the profession of medicine furnished some of the most enlightened and distinguished counsellors—in the long struggle of war, none were more vigilant and self-sacrificing in relieving the distresses and afflictions of its unfortunate victims, than the members of the Medical Society, that had originated in the infant colony, and was zealous in its efforts to promote the cause of science till the revolution commenced: and though they became separated and feeble, by the storm of conflict which raged through seven long and desolate years, yet when New Jersey became an independent state, the medical profession collected again its scattered remnants, from the field and the council, and commenced with renewed vigor the cause of medical improvement. Their first fruits were laid at the feet of state authority, and in return, there was freely bestowed the gift of legislative support and encouragement.

From that period until the present, we have retained a place in the history of state legislation; but we are compelled to admit the truth, that our present relation to the state is in no wise calculated to do us good, except it be in the fact, that we possess a charter, by which we are recognized as a useful organization.

Let us examine this relation, as it has been, and as it is. Until 1851 we were a corporate body, having power to receive, or reject applicants for license, after a careful and impartial examination by competent censors; and in this respect, we were *honored* by the state, with the privilege of selecting our own colleagues, while we conferred upon society all that we could of protection to life and health, by adding our testimony to the voice of civil authority, against the admission of unqualified persons to the ranks of the profession, and by arduous labor in private professional life. This was well, and in a good degree, accomplished the end intended by the state, and desired by an intelligent community. True, there were recreants, there were malefactors, deceivers, &c., but for these we were not responsible; they are found in all professions, and in every department of life. But the time came in the legislative history of our noble little Jersey, when this charter under which our fathers lived, and the advantages of which have been enjoyed by the profession and the people alike, for so many years, was to be used for other purposes: and men from the plough, the shop, the counting-house, the bench, the bar, and even the pulpit, assemble in legislative halls, pass judgment upon the qualifications of medical graduates, compel the society to receive any that may come from either of five colleges, located in Philadelphia or New York, and then, if they turn out to be reckless, ignorant, or designing, and calamity falls upon families or communities through them, the New Jersey Medical Society unwillingly bears the odium, which, in truth belongs to the state, which has opened the door to the mountebank, and bidden him come, and scatter freely among us the poisonous fruits of his ignorance and presumption.

But it may be enquired, are not these colleges reputable, and are not their graduates to be relied on? The answer is, the colleges are as good as may be found in the land, and we have no controversy with them; but among the hundreds who year after year come out from among them, clothed with the honors of the doctorate, it is acknowledged by all, and is freely admitted by themselves, that many are unworthy—they slip through, even with a tolerably thorough examination, but for want of moral stamina, will assent to any mode of practice that may happen to suit the popular taste of their several localities, or what is more probable, will adopt the lowest tricks of charlatanry that degrade the profession, and disgrace the man. To check this tide of empiricism, it was proposed at the last meeting of the American Medical Association, to secure from every graduate a written obligation or pledge, to preserve

his fealty to the code of ethics promulgated, and to the system of practice taught, by his Alma Mater.

Again, all other schools and colleges except the privileged five, are cut off by our law, from the list of acknowledged institutions. Worthy men, and true, may come to New Jersey, with diplomas from Virginia or Kentucky, in the south, from Maine or Massachusetts, in the east, or from beyond the lakes and rivers of the west, and they may be allowed to practice the "healing art," among us, only after a satisfactory examination by medical censors: but all who may present a diploma from the institutions named in the law, by the payment of *five dollars*, shall secure a license, under the signature and seal of the Medical Society, *without* an examination; while the Medical Society so acting under legal compulsion, carries the weight of their character, moral and professional. We are therefore free to assert, that if the legislature is competent to judge of the efficiency of medical schools, it ought also to judge of the medical qualifications of individuals who may emanate from them as graduates; and it should relieve the society of the necessity of receiving and acknowledging such graduates without an examination. Hence, to be consistent with itself, and the law that it has framed, and imposed upon us, it should appoint a Board of Examiners, composed of good wholesome farmers, and mechanics—shrewd merchants—erudite judges, and lawyers—with a good representation of meddling preachers; and these, under the "broad seal" of the state, should assemble at Trenton, after due notice having been published in all the papers of *New York* and *Philadelphia*, and hand-bills posted on the black boards of the five colleges, and the doors of the legislative chambers of the state, at least one month beforehand, and deliberately proceed to examine, first, the diplomas of all candidates for state patronage, to assure themselves that they are genuine; and secondly, to arraign each *aspirant* and give him a thorough *grinding* on the subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, organic and inorganic, materia medica, and pharmacy; the theory and practice of medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and the diseases of women and children. After satisfying themselves that the candidates possess a good knowledge of these various branches, they then should issue a parchment, signed by each, and sanctioned with their seal, and send them out upon the tour of professional life. It should also be declared as one of the provisions of the instrument, that if, like Bunyan's pilgrim, they should fall asleep, and lose the scroll, by returning to the shady arbor reared by the legislature, they could find it again.

Such, then, is our relation to the state. We are a corporate body, having no right of choice as to who shall be our associates, and no op-

portunity of throwing off the odium that may arise from a forced companionship with ignorant, or designing individuals. But it is said that the President of the society may exercise discretion in the matter of granting licenses. No discretion is allowed him, unless he is possessed of evidence of immorality on the part of the applicant; and this of course no applicant will furnish; and if he be called for testimonials of morality they are always at hand. The cause of complaint, therefore, is, that the society has no right to institute enquiries as to professional merit or ability. A man may slide through a college with but little brains, and still less conscience, and the Medical Society asks of the state the poor privilege of defending itself from contact, and companionship with him; this it is not only denied, but the reproach of all their professional sins, is cast upon the Society, which it is compelled to bear, having only the power of remonstrance left; and when the voice of remonstrance is raised, it falls as powerless upon the mind of our state legislature, as the infant's rod upon the ground.

It may be said of them as of the beast in the fable :—

As when a sluggish ass in corn is found,
Whose back has numerous staves already broke,
He now with troops of boys encompass'd round,
Impenetrably dull receives the stroke;
Teaz'd, but not hurt, he stands their utmost spite,
Nor blows, nor shouts, can urge him to return;
Weak are their cries, and childish is their might,
Serene he pastures on the bladed corn,
At length, and scarce at length, he deigns to yield,
Driv'n, sated with repast, slow-footing from the field.

So will it be in the future. A few more years of reckless law-making, when the legislative appetite shall be satisfied with a full mess of quackery, though it may be slow footed, it will go, like the sickened ass, hoven to its stall, and wander no more in forbidden fields.

We claim for the society the right to exclude all persons from its fellowship, who may be esteemed unsuitable. We claim for the state, the exalted dignity of a wise and independent government; but we mourn for both—for the first, because it is the victim of imprudent and oppressive legislation; and for the second, because it will not foster the safest means of securing health to the people; and when we say this, we mean to say that human life and health are better preserved by the rules of science, than by the *neck-or-nothing* experiments of rude empiricism. True, it is possible that there may be a conservative power exercised by the county Medical Societies; they may admit whom they please to membership; they may reject the applications of even licensed physicians, who, if not

received as members in the counties, cannot be delegated to the state society; but, as the district and state organizations act under the same charter, as they partake of a common fund, as they are in fact the same body, there would be inconsistency, if not a want of loyalty, in the county refusing to recognize a licentiate, recommended by the official act and seal of the state; hence the controlling power is in truth, a nullity.

We believe we have done justice to the medical profession of New Jersey, in attempting to portray their true relation to the government under which they live. We believe we have correctly represented the government, in attempting to point out its errors with reference to our profession: and next follows the conclusion. If the truth has been correctly stated in these pages, the question is involuntarily proposed to the mind, what better are we for the union? Even admitting that it has been ratified by the experience and wisdom of nearly a hundred years, what better are we? Some there may be, who would break the bond; some, who would wear the yoke without complaint, and some, perchance who have never opened their eyes to see their chains; but "troops of boys" there are, who, encompassed round the swelling feeder, carefully watch his bloating; and though their cries may be weak, and their might childish, and they may not urge by blows or shouts, yet as the *inflation* goes on, the strength will yield, and dolt-like, he shall fall back, and seek the care of those whose warnings he had long rejected. Let us not break the bond, nor yet wear it without complaint; but patiently wait the advent of a brighter day, when a wise legislation shall declare its authority in favor of science and truth.

Epidemics.—In our last, we announced the prevalence of *Yellow Fever* in New Orleans. Six weeks have elapsed, and the end is not yet. Death has been claiming his victims at the rate, for a portion of the time, of about two hundred a day. But we are happy to say that there is a very great diminution in the mortality, the reports scarcely reaching fifty per diem at this date (Sept. 20.) The total mortality in that city alone, from the commencement of the epidemic (May 22d,) up to the 18th inst., has reached 8,119. We propose in a future number giving a concise history of the epidemic, comparing it with those of former years. But the abatement of the fever in New Orleans (which seems to be rather from *want of material* than from subsidence of the epidemic influence,) has been succeeded by its alarming prevalence in other cities, towns, and villages, on the river, bayous, lakes and gulf. It is also raging violent-

ly at Mobile the proportion of deaths to the number of inhabitants, being greater than during its height at New Orleans. Neither have our northern cities entirely escaped. It is whispered that Philadelphia, and even New York, despite the silence of newspapers and Boards of Health, are suffering from the disease to a limited extent. The fever broke out in Philadelphia on the arrival of the bark Mandarin from Cienfuegos, W. I. on the 13th of July last. The *Medical Examiner* for September, contains a report of thirty-eight cases, and thirty-one deaths up to the 20th of Aug., with an intimation that other cases had occurred, of which they did not succeed in getting a report. At this date (Sept. 20), we learn that it increases in violence, though the newspapers, and authorities are silent on the subject, with the exception of now and then a case or two in the reports of the Board of Health.

In our last, we also spoke of the prevalence of *cholera* to a limited extent in our own country, and alarmingly, abroad. While in its sporadic and epidemic forms this has become one of our established diseases, and is the source of but little anxiety to the physician, in its epidemic form it is still a scourge, baffling to a great extent, all the resources of the healing art. In its epidemic variety it continues to prevail to a limited extent in some parts of our country, Mexico and the West Indies, while the violence with which it rages, in Russia, Sweden, Prussia, Germany and Denmark, decimating the population in some parts of those countries, steadily making progress to the westward, precisely as it did during the memorable epidemic of 1832, forewarns us to prepare for the worst. Already has the disease appeared in Liverpool, England, and the present indications are, that by next spring at furthest, this scourge will visit our own shores. It becomes practitioners of medicine therefore, to betake themselves to their books, study the past history and pathology of the disease, and fix in their own minds, as far as it is possible to do it beforehand, some principles of practice, against they have the disease to combat, when, if we mistake not, they will have little time for reflection.

B.

To Readers and Correspondents. The press of matter on hand, has swelled our present issue four pages beyond its ordinary capacity, and yet we have been obliged to omit several Bibliographical notices, and an article from Dr. O. H. Taylor, of Camden, on "*Atresia Vaginae*" and other matter, which will appear in our next. We must remark also that we have been unable to copy anything from our exchanges for want of room. We hope a "better time" is coming.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

The *Camden County* District Medical Society met at Camden, June 21, at 12 o'clock. Dr. Charles D. Hendry, President, in the Chair. After the usual reports of committees and delegates, the committee on diseases incident to the county, reported through their chairman, Dr. O. H. Taylor, an interesting paper, in which the diseases prevalent throughout the county, during the last year, were ably discussed, together with some peculiar cases which came under his particular notice. Report accepted and ordered to be filed.

On motion of Dr. Woodruff, it was *Resolved* "that a Standing Committee of three be appointed to report at each meeting of the Society, and that each member of this Society be requested to transmit to the Chairman, such cases occurring under his notice, as he may deem interesting; and that the Secretary be requested to furnish a copy of this resolution to each of the members who are absent from this meeting." Drs. Taylor, Woodruff, and Snowden, were appointed on that committee.

Drs. Woodruff, Bowman Hendry, Mulford, and Cullen, were elected delegates to the State Medical Society, for the ensuing year.

On motion of Dr. Cooper, *Resolved*, that all delegates unable to attend, be empowered to appoint alternates.

Dr. Cooper was appointed delegate to the next National Convention—Dr. Schenck, alternate.

On motion, Dr. Bowman Hendry was appointed to deliver the Annual Address at the next meeting.

On motion of Dr. Taylor, it was *Resolved*, that the proceedings of each meeting be published in the "*New Jersey Medical Reporter*"

Election of officers being in order—

Dr. Charles D. Hendry was elected President.

Dr. John W. Snowden, vice-President.

Dr. Thomas F. Cullen, Secretary and Treasurer.

Members present—Drs. Woodruff, Cooper, Bowman Hendry, Snowden, Mulford, Taylor, Schenck, Charles D. Hendry, and Cullen.

On motion of Dr. Cooper, *Resolved*, that the Secretary be directed to draw up a copy, of the Constitution and By-laws, embracing all the amendments made during the existence of the Society.

On motion, adjourned to meet at the usual time and place.

THOMAS F. CULLEN, Sec'y.

The Semi-Annual meeting of the District Medical Society of the *County of Burlington*, was held at the house of R. C. Humphreys, in Mount Holly, on the 12th day of July, 1853.

The President, Dr. Butler, in the chair—members present, Drs. Stratton, Coleman, Budd, Parrish, Bryan, Reid, and Gauntt.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

On motion, Dr. Pugh, of Bristol, Pa., and Dr. Denby, of Mount Holly, were invited to take part in the proceedings, and dine with the Society.

The President announced that the next business in order was the address of the vice-President, Dr. Page, who was however absent, in consequence of sickness.

Dr. Parrish read an essay on the importance to the functions of the skin in the treatment of disease.

Dr. Coleman made a very interesting statement of a case of Hysterical mania—the subject being a young Irish woman, who had disgorged several quarts of materials

from the stomach, consisting of half digested muscular remains and intestines, together with vertebrae, ribs, and other bones of birds, fishes, and reptiles, and who had, so far, been so cunning in practising her deceptions, as to escape detection. [A full report of this case will be prepared for the *Reporter*. Ed.]

On motion of Dr. Parrish, it was *Resolved*, That in the discussions that may be had before this Society, on topics of interest to the medical profession, each member participating, shall, if requested by the Secretary, furnish in writing, a summary of his remarks for record, and publication.

The subject of vaccination was proposed for discussion at the next meeting.

The members present paid their annual contributions.

Adjourned to meet at the house of S. B. Campion, on the 2d Tuesday in October.

FRANKLIN GAUNTT, Sec'y.

FRANKLIN CO. (MASS.) DIST. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The fellows of this Society held an adjourned meeting at Shelburne Falls, Sept. 7.

The President, DR. WILLIAMS, on taking the chair, announced his intention to withdraw his connection from the Society, in consequence of the contemplated removal of his residence, whereupon the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed:—

Whereas the Fellows of this Society have heard with regret the determination of Dr. Williams, just expressed, therefore

Resolved, That we cordially recommend him to the favorable notice of all kindred bodies, as an exemplary associate; and to the public, as a competent physician and surgeon, well versed in the principles of science and learning, and a gentleman of unimpeachable character.

Resolved, That this Society express its regard for Dr. Williams by presenting him a gold watch.

Resolved, That he be requested to give to this Society a sketch of his professional life.

Agreeably to the second resolution, a fine gold watch was presented Dr. Williams by Dr. J. Deane, accompanied by the following remarks:

Sir:—In behalf of the Fellows of this Society I present you this gold watch as an expression of our regard for your character as a gentleman and physician. By your varied attainments in learning and science, and by your urbanity and punctilious decorum, you have ever won our confidence and respect, and it cannot be but gratifying to you to know that in all the intimate relations that have so long and so uninterruptedly existed between us, we have never entertained a suspicion of your integrity or your honor. It is therefore with sincere regret on our part that these relations are to be severed, but in going from us, you will unquestionably bear with you our fraternal sympathies and good will. Through the remainder of your useful life, do not doubt that these friends will, while they live, cherish your memory and exult in your prosperity. With these sentiments we offer you this parting gift, with the hope that it may measure to you many years of health happiness and honorable age.

The reply of Dr. Williams was as follows:

Gentlemen:—I can scarcely give utterance to my feelings for the elegant gift of this gold watch as a parting token of your affection; and for the flattering expressions of your regard for me. Next to the approbation of God and my conscience, is that of my professional brethren, for in the language of Burton, "none but a physician can judge with regard to the qualifications of a medical man."

When I shall look upon this acceptable present,—and it will be my constant companion,—it will not only remind me of the rapid flight of time, but also of your endearing friendship that I can never forget. With most of the Fellows of this Society I have long been on terms of intimacy, and I trust we will part with mutual good will. My warmest thanks are due to you all for the distinguished honors you have conferred upon me and for the confidence with which you have accepted my counsels and advice.

This Society is dear to my heart. For many years I have exerted myself to establish it, and it affords me the highest pleasure to know that I leave it in the keeping of gentlemen who will honor it and themselves by their fidelity to it.

From early life I have been devoted to the profession of medicine and my love for it has been unquenchable: I early put on the professional armor and have labored unceasingly and I hope not unsuccessfully. I shall yet wear it (and perchance die in it), on the lovely prairies of the West, and I shall look back upon your friendship with unmingled satisfaction and delight. In tearing myself away from my beautiful native town where I have resided more than sixty years, I feel that the ligaments of my heart are broken; but the calls of duty urge me, and they are imperious.

In accordance with the last resolution, Dr. Williams gave a highly interesting account of his professional career, a copy of which was solicited for the archives of the Society.

The usual address was delivered by Dr. Cooke of Wendell, which was received with zest and instruction, and with the thanks of the Fellows. His subject was *Medical Delusions*.

The meeting was closed by a discussion on Dysentery, in which most of the Fellows participated, and was followed by a very excellent dinner served with taste and attention by the gentlemanly proprietor of the Shelburne Falls House. After requesting the editors of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, and of the Greenfield papers, to publish these proceedings, the Fellows separated, delighted with their interview, not forgetting, however, that it was the last at which the venerable President would preside.

The watch was a heavy, full jewelled English lever, of the value of \$100, and was purchased of Mr. Josiah Day. It bore upon its outside the following inscription:

STEPHEN WEST WILLIAMS, M. D.

President

Franklin Dist. Med. Society.

From the Fellows,

Sept. 7,

1853.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The changes in our periodical medical literature are so frequent, and so rapid, that we can scarcely keep pace with them. No sooner does one man vacate the chair editorial, because he discovers that it is an expensive dignity, than another vaults into his place, assured that nothing is wanting, but his own talent and energy, to make the enterprise successful. Yet, most of these periodicals, having some private interest to advocate, are sustained for a time, even though it be at considerable pecuniary sacri-

fice, which falls more lightly on individuals in consequence of being shared by several. Well—the field is broad, and it is open to all, *and there is room enough for all*, only, let each, whatever other interest he may advocate, see to it that so far as the fair honor of our noble profession is in *his* keeping, it is preserved inviolate.

Loud rumors of a “flare up” among our brethren in Cincinnati, having been wafted hither away by the prevailing western breezes, we predict that we will shortly have occasion to notice the advent of a new “candidate,” in that field.

The Medical Reporter.—Think not, reader, that we are going to press upon you here, a notice of our own “Reporter.” For that, we refer you to the fourth page of cover. *This “Reporter”* is “A Quarterly Journal published under the direction of the Chester, and Delaware Co. (Pa.) Medical Societies,” and edited by a joint committee of those societies. It is a neat, well printed work of thirty-two pages, and is particularly intended to be a vehicle through which the proceedings of those societies may reach the public. The object is a good one, and we hope the enterprise will prove eminently successful. Terms—one dollar a year in advance. Address Wilmer Worthington, M. D., or Bowen and Meredith, West Chester, Pa.

The Western Medico-surgical Journal., J. F. Sanborn, M. D., editor and proprietor. Bi-monthly (40 pages), two dollars per annum, in advance. Keokuk, Iowa.

The Iowa Medical Journal.—Conducted by the faculty of the Medical Department of the Iowa University, P. O. Box 109, Keokuk, Iowa. Monthly (32 pages), two dollars per annum, in advance.

The above two journals have recently come to hand, and we are sorely puzzled to know what to make of them. Are they rivals or has one arisen from the ashes of the other? If they are both entities they stand on their dignity in respect to each other, for neither, so far as we can discover, speaks of his fellow. Gentlemen (we wish we had the opportunity of introducing you;), if you *are* rivals, let your rivalry be as to who will bear the standard of medicine most loftily! We always had a reverential idea of the vastness of the west (for we have been further west than Keokuk), but it must be “developing” more rapidly than do some malignant tumors, if the profession in Iowa can already support *two* medical periodicals. Both the journals are well printed, and filled with good matter. To each we say, *esto perpetua*. By the way, on p. 15 of the Iowa journal we perceive an article by Dr. B. H. Washington of Han-

nibal, Mo. on "Dry Cupping," which should have been credited to this journal.

The Peninsular Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences.—Edited by E. Andrews, A. M., M. D. Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Michigan. Monthly (48 pages), two dollars per annum in advance, Ann Arbor, Mich.

We have received Nos. 2 and 3 (please forward No. 1), of this sprightly looking monthly, which seems to be published under the auspices of the Medical Dep't of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, a place that did not exist when we studied or taught geography (not very long since, either), and which we look for on the map! Here is, "Detroit,"—and "Thunder Bay,"—but for the life of us we can't find—O, yes, here it is, "Ann Arbor!" We are a "progressive" people!

We hope to be able to do justice to these and *all* our exchanges hereafter, but for several months our pages have been so crowded with original matter, that we have had no room for selections.

The People's Medical Gazette, Edited by John Davis, M. D. Practising Physician. Monthly (32 pages), one dollar per annum, in advance. Abbeville C. H., South Carolina.

This, as its name indicates, is a Gazette for the people, intended to circulate among the masses. Much good may result to both the people and the profession, from such an enterprise well conducted, and we heartily wish Dr. Davis, success. By the way, what has become of Dr. Griswold's "Esculapian"? We have not seen a number for months.

Le Moniteur Des Hospitaux, is the title of a *tri-weekly* medical paper, which has come to us from Paris. Redacteur en chef M. H. De Castelnau. Prix, 30 francs par an.

With the commencement of its third volume, the *Transylvania Medical Journal* has become the *Kentucky Medical Recorder*, and the editorial chair, vacated by Dr. L. J. Frazee, is now occupied by Drs. H. M. Bullitt and R. J. Breckinridge, of the Kentucky school of Medicine.

BIOGRAPHY.

Biographical Sketch of the late Dr. W. D. McKISSACK; drawn up by John W. Craig, M. D., and published by direction of the District Medical Society for the County of Somerset.

Died, at Millstone, Somerset county, N. J., March 6, 1853. WILLIAM D. McKISSACK, M. D., in the 69th year of his age.

Dr. McKissack was born in Bedminster, Somerset county, New Jersey, in 1784. His family was highly reputable; was in part of Scotch, in part of English descent. His father emigrated to this country from Scotland, before the revolution. He soon enlisted under its banners, and adopted it as his own. He was enthusiastic in the cause of liberty, and struggled hard to obtain our independence. He was also, a physician of high standing—practiced his profession some thirty or forty years in Bound Brook, N. J., and died at an advanced age, beloved by his friends and honored by the public.

His mother was the daughter of Col. William McDonald, who was a valiant officer in the British Army. He emigrated to this country before the revolution, and became an active and zealous opposer of British oppression and avarice.

Dr. McKissack, the subject of the following remarks, gave proof of talent and maturity of intellect at an early age. The proofs of genius and devotion to study, which he had thus early evinced, seemed to indicate to his parents the propriety and expediency of giving him a liberal education. He was placed, therefore, preparatory for admission to College, in the Academy at Basking Ridge, in his native county, over which the Rev. Dr. Finley presided with distinguished ability. Of this eminent instructor and learned divine, he was accustomed to speak in terms of high respect, and was much attached to him in after life.

He graduated at Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J., in 1800. While an undergraduate, his love of study, urbanity of manners, and correct deportment, conciliated the high regard, both of his instructors and fellow students.

Shortly after leaving Princeton, he commenced his professional studies, under the care of Dr. Bellville, of Trenton, N. J. He remained in the Doctor's office some years; and received his medical diploma at the medical department of Rutgers' College, in 1805; and settled shortly after at Pittstown, N. J., to practice his profession. He remained however, at Pittstown but a short period, and returned to his native county, and located at Millstone, where he continued in active professional duties until his death; a period of more than forty years. Here his career commenced under the most favorable auspices. His affable manners, professional attainments, and industry, soon procured him an extensive practice.

Dr. McKissack was always a devoted and zealous member of the Somerset District Medical Society—his solicitude for its welfare, together with his courteous and conciliatory manners, rendered him one of its most valued members. In 1826, he was elected President of the N. J. Medical Society. He loved his profession, studied it well, and did all in his power to promote its best interests. No one possessed a more supreme contempt for Quackery, and all the popular obstacles thrown in the way of true medical science. He was truly, a prudent, careful, discerning and successful physician. In his intercourse with his brethren, he was modest and unpretending, avoiding any marked attention or distinction.

Dr. McKissack filled many offices of trust and honor, in his native county. At one time he was a much valued member of the State Legislature. In the last war with England, he raised and headed a company in defence of his beloved country. Chivalrous, bold, and patriotic, he felt the honor and importance of his station, and exulted in the thought of being the defender of his country, and avenger of its wrongs.

He possessed an ardent temperament, enlarged sympathies, and a conciliating disposition. Admired by all, for his social qualities—as a companion, he was the delight of his friends. In the social and domestic circle, the fine qualities of his mind were seen to the greatest advantage. Though much caressed in society, he appeared the most happy in the bosom of his family. In the relation of son, husband, parent, and friend, he exhibited a commendable example of fidelity, affection and kindness. It

was for home that his fond heart reserved its best affections and its choicest pleasures.

The disease that terminated so valuable a life, was an affection of the heart. For years previous to his dissolution, his health had been greatly impaired. He continued however, to attend to his professional calls, till within a few days of his decease. For the last ten years, he had a very unhealthy beat of the pulse, ordinarily from 90 to 100 or more per minute. This, and other circumstances, induced our friend to believe there was an ossification of the valves of his heart.

On retiring, a few evenings previous to his death, in ordinary health, he was suddenly seized with "dyspnœa," and finally expired with entire composure, without a struggle, experiencing very little pain, and with a calm resignation to the will of his heavenly father, fully conscious of his approaching dissolution. Thus has passed away a kind and affectionate friend, and a justly esteemed and highly valued physician.

His death was deeply lamented, not only by his family, who felt the magnitude of their loss, but also, by his numerous friends, and the community in which he lived and served so faithfully almost half a century.

BRANSBY COOPER, F. R. S.

This able and distinguished surgeon was the fourth son of the Rev. Samuel Cooper, elder brother of the eminent Sir Astley Cooper, and the grandson of Dr. Cooper, for many years Vicar of Great Yarmouth. Bransby Cooper was born on the 2nd of September, 1792, at Great Yarmouth, and there received the elements of his general education. Young Cooper at an early age entered the British service as a midshipman in the *Stately*, a 64-gun ship, under the especial care and instruction of the First Lieutenant, afterwards Admiral Fisher. The sea not agreeing with his delicate health, he consented to return again to school, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Spurdens, of North Walsham, Norfolk. Having finished his education he visited his uncle, Astley Cooper, who was then rising rapidly in public estimation; at his suggestion young Cooper repaired to the Norwich Hospital, where he remained for two years, and then came to London, and entered the house of Mr. Hodgson, of the City, who subsequently attained considerable fame as an operating surgeon in Birmingham and the midland counties, and to whose high professional attainments, Bransby Cooper was to a great extent indebted for his surgical acquirements. In the year 1812, Cooper went into the army as assistant-surgeon in the Royal Artillery, and immediately repaired to the Peninsula, then in the midst of war. He was present at the battles of Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, the siege of St. Sebastian, and the battle of Toulouse. Mr. Cooper was admitted a member of the royal College of Surgeons of England on the 5th of December, 1823, having for three years previously acted as Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital, and having already published his valuable treatise on the ligaments. In 1843 he was elected an honorary fellow of the college, and in 1848 became a member of the council. Bransby Cooper has made some valuable contributions to the advancement of surgical knowledge, especially in the *Guy's Hospital Reports*. He was also the author of Surgical Essays, on the growth and formation of bone, and on fractures and dislocations; he also edited the biography of Sir Astley Cooper. Mr. Cooper died on the 19th of August. He was a kind and amiable man, and was much beloved and respected. He leaves a widow and large family to deplore his loss.—*London Illustrated News*.